

Message Text

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TAGS: ECOSOC EGEN

SUBJECT: 61ST ECOSOC - ITEM 15, NATURAL RESOURCES

REF: (A) STATE 178560; (B) GENEVA 5756 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ON JULY 22 ADPOTED WITHOUT VOTE A REVISED VERSION OF THE MEXICAN DRAFT RESOLUTION ON NATURAL RESOURCES (ITEM 15), I.E. ON STRENGTHENING THE INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OF THE CENTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY AND TRANSPORT (TEXT BELOW). THE US EXPLAINED ITS POSITION ON SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATURAL RESOURCES. END SUMMARY.

2. WE HAD INFORMED THE MEXICANS OF THE UNACCEPTABILITY OF THE ORIGINAL VERSION OF THE FIRST PREAMBULAR PARA ON PERMANENT SOVERIGNTY OVER NATURAL RESOURCES AND PROPOSED TO THEM CHANGES PER REFTEL (A), AFTER WHICH WE AGREED TO THE MEXICAN'S OFFER OF A COMPROMISE CHANGING "RECALLING" TO "REAFFIRMING" IN RETURN FOR MEETING OUR REQUIREMENT ON ELIMINATING "AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES", AS AUTHORIZED BY DEP PER WYMAN/POOLE TELECON JULY 20. WHETHER BY DESIGN OR ANADVERTENCE, HOWEVER, THE REVISED DRAFT OFFICIALLY CIRCULATED ON JULY 22 INCORPORATED ONLY THE FIRST CHANGE. THE COLOMBIAN AND JAMAICAN CO-SPONSORS, WHOM WE

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APPROACHED AFTER RECEIVING AN EVASIVE ANSWER FROM THE

MEXICANS, THEN MADE SURE THAT THE MEXICANS EXPLAINED IN COMMITTEE THAT THIS WAS AN ERROR OF REPRODUCTION, MAKING THE NECESSARY CORRECTION.

3. ANOTHER POTENTIAL PROBLEM WAS AVOIDED WHEN THE CO-SPONSORS SUCCESSFULLY RESISTED BEHIND-THE-SCENES PROPOSALS OF SOME G-77 MEMBERS (E.G. ALGERIAN AND NIGERIA) TO ADD TO THE CENTER'S MANDATE THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION ON PRICES OF CAPITAL GOODS AND OTHER MANUFACTURERS IMPORTED BY LDC'S SO AS TO COMPARE THESE WITH RAW MATERIAL PRICES -- WE AND CERTAIN OTHER WEO'S HAVING TOLD THEM THAT THIS (WITH ITS OBVIOUS IMPLICATIONS RE INDEXATION) WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE.

4. THROUGHOUT THIS EXERCISE WE COORDINATED CLOSELY WITH THE EC-9, JAPAN, CANADA AND AUSTRALIA.

5. THE DEPT WILL ALSO NOTE CERTAIN OTHER CHANGES, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS IN OPERATIVE PARAS 3 AND 4.

6. AFTER ADOPTION, USDEL REITERATED OUR SUPPORT FOR THE SUBSTANCE OF THE RESOLUTION; EXPLAINED THAT WE "ACCEPTED THE REFERENCE TO THE PRINCIPLE OF PERMANENT SOVERIGNTY OVER NATURAL RESOURCES TO THE EXTENT THAT THE EXERCISE OF THAT PRINCIPLE IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW"; AND STATED THAT WITH RESPECT TO FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS, ASSUMED THE 5TH COMMITTEE, WITH THE ADVICE OF THE ACABQ, WOULD BEAR IN MIND THE OVERALL FINANCIAL AND STAFF RESOURCES AVAILABLE AND THE NEED TO ESTABLISH PRIORITIES IN RESPECT TO THE INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UN SYSTEM.

7. BELGIUM, FRG, UK AND JAPAN ALSO EXPLAINED THEIR TRADITIONAL POSITIONS ON PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY, AND BELGIUM, UK, ITALY AND USSR RESERVED ON FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS. MEXICO, GETTING THE FINAL WORD, REASSERTED THE PRINCIPLE OF PERMANENT SOVERIGTY OF STATES OVER THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NIEO.

8. TEXT FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT

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NATURAL RESOURCES

COLOMBIA, JAMAICAN AND MEXICO:
REVISED DRAFT RESOLUTION

STRENGTHENING OF UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION
SERVICES IN THE NATURAL RESOURCES FIELD

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL,

REAFFIRMING THE PRINCIPLE OF PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OF EACH STATE
OVER ITS NATURAL RESOURCES,

RECOGNIZING THE INCREASING NEED FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF THE
VOLUNTARY EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON NATURAL RESOURCES, AND
AFFIRMING THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS AS A CLEARING HOUSE FOR
SUCH INFORMATION,

1. TAKES NOTE OF THE PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
IN HIS REPORT 1/ FOR THE GRADUAL STRENGTHENING OF THE UNITED
NATIONS INFORMATION SERVICES IN THE NATURAL RESOURCES FIELD;

2. RECOMMENDS THAT THE INFORMATION IN QUESTION SHOULD COVER TRENDS
IN THE SUPPLY, DEMAND, CONSUMPTION AND RESERVES OF NATURAL RESOURCES,
DRAWING UPON THE WORK CARRIED OUT WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE UNITED
NATIONS SYSTEM, AND INCLUDE RELEVANT ECONOMIC DATA CONCERNING
THE PROCESSING AND TRANSPORTATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE
STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS OF INDUSTRIES IN NATURAL RESOURCES
SECTORS;

3. FURTHER RECOMMENDS THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHOULD GIVE DUE
CONSIDERATION TO THE PROVISION OF THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES NECESSARY
FOR GIVING EFFECT TO THESE PROPOSALS, TAKING DUE ACCOUNT OF THE
WORK IN PROGRESS OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE RESTRUCTURING
OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM;

4. URGES DONOR COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, TO
CONSIDER MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE STRENGTHENING OF
UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION SERVICES IN THE NATURAL RESOURCES FIELD.

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